

Preliminary Amendment under Rule 1.53(b), dated 30 September 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the title at the top of the unnumbered first page, as follows:

~~NON-CHROMATE METAL SURFACE ETCHING SOLUTIONS~~

CHROMATE-FREE METHOD FOR SURFACE  
ETCHING OF TITANIUM

On the first unnumbered page, amend the title page statement section starting "TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:. . ." and ending ". . . FAX: 401-832-1231 . . .," as follows:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT (1) WAYNE C. TUCKER, (2) MARIA G. MEDEIROS, employees of the United States Government, citizens of the United States of America, and resident of (1) Exeter, County of Washington, State of Rhode Island, (2) Bristol, County of Bristol, Rhode Island; and, (3) RICHARD BROWN, citizen of the United Kingdom and resident of Wakefield, Washington County, Rhode Island have invented certain new and useful improvements entitled as set forth above of which the following is a specification:

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Amend the title heading on page 2, line 3, as follows:

~~NON-CHROMATE METAL SURFACE ETCHING SOLUTIONS~~  
CHROMATE-FREE METHOD FOR SURFACE  
ETCHING OF TITANIUM

Add the following new paragraph after the title of the  
invention heading at page 2, line 3, as follows:

The present application is a division of patent application  
serial number 10/143,173, filed 7 May 2002.

Amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 12 and  
continuing through page 7, line 22 as follows:

This patent application is ~~co-pending with one~~ related to  
co-pending patent applications entitled NON-CHROMATE CONVERSION  
COATING ~~(Attorney Docket No. 82602)~~, Serial No. 10/143,176, filed  
7 May 2003, CHROMATE-FREE METHOD FOR SURFACE ETCHING OF STAINLESS  
STEEL (Attorney Docket No. 84842), filed on even date with this  
application, and CHROMATE-FREE METHOD FOR SURFACE ETCHING OF

Title: Chromate-Free Method for Surface  
Etching of Titanium

Attorney Docket No. 84843

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ALUMINIUM AND ALUMINUM ALLOYS (Attorney Docket No. 84841), filed

on even date with this application, all these co-pending  
applications being by the same inventors as this application.

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Amend the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE at page 18, line 1  
continuing through line 11, as follows:

~~NON-CHROMATE METAL SURFACE ETCHING SOLUTIONS~~

CHROMATE-FREE METHOD FOR

ETCHING OF TITANIUM

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Non-chromate solutions for treating and/or etching metals, particularly, aluminum, aluminum alloys, steel and titanium, and method of applying same wherein the solutions include either a titanate or titanium dioxide as a "drop-in replacement" for a chromium-containing compound in a metal surface etching solution that otherwise would contain chromium.